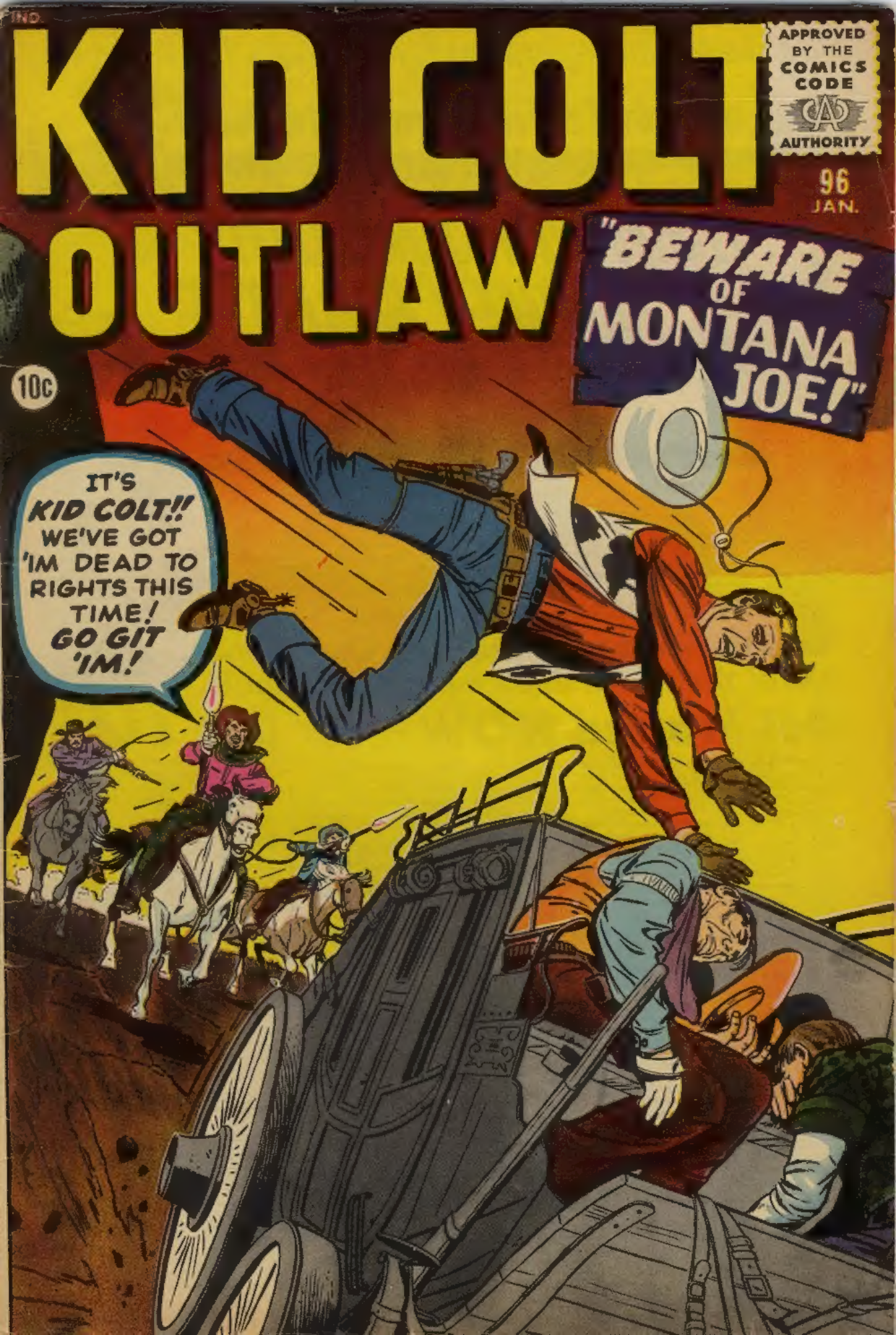
IND.
KID COLT OUTLAW
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
96 JAN.
"BEWARE OF MONTANA JOE!"
10c
IT'S KID COLT!! WE'VE GOT 'IM DEAD TO RIGHTS THIS TIME! GO GIT 'IM!

Let these Champions of Sports Help You Build the Kind of Body You've Always Wanted!

MICKEY MANTLE was so shy, he had trouble *just saying hello!* He shows you how sports made him "come out of his shell", built his self-confidence and helped him to become a champion! Now Mickey wants to help YOU!

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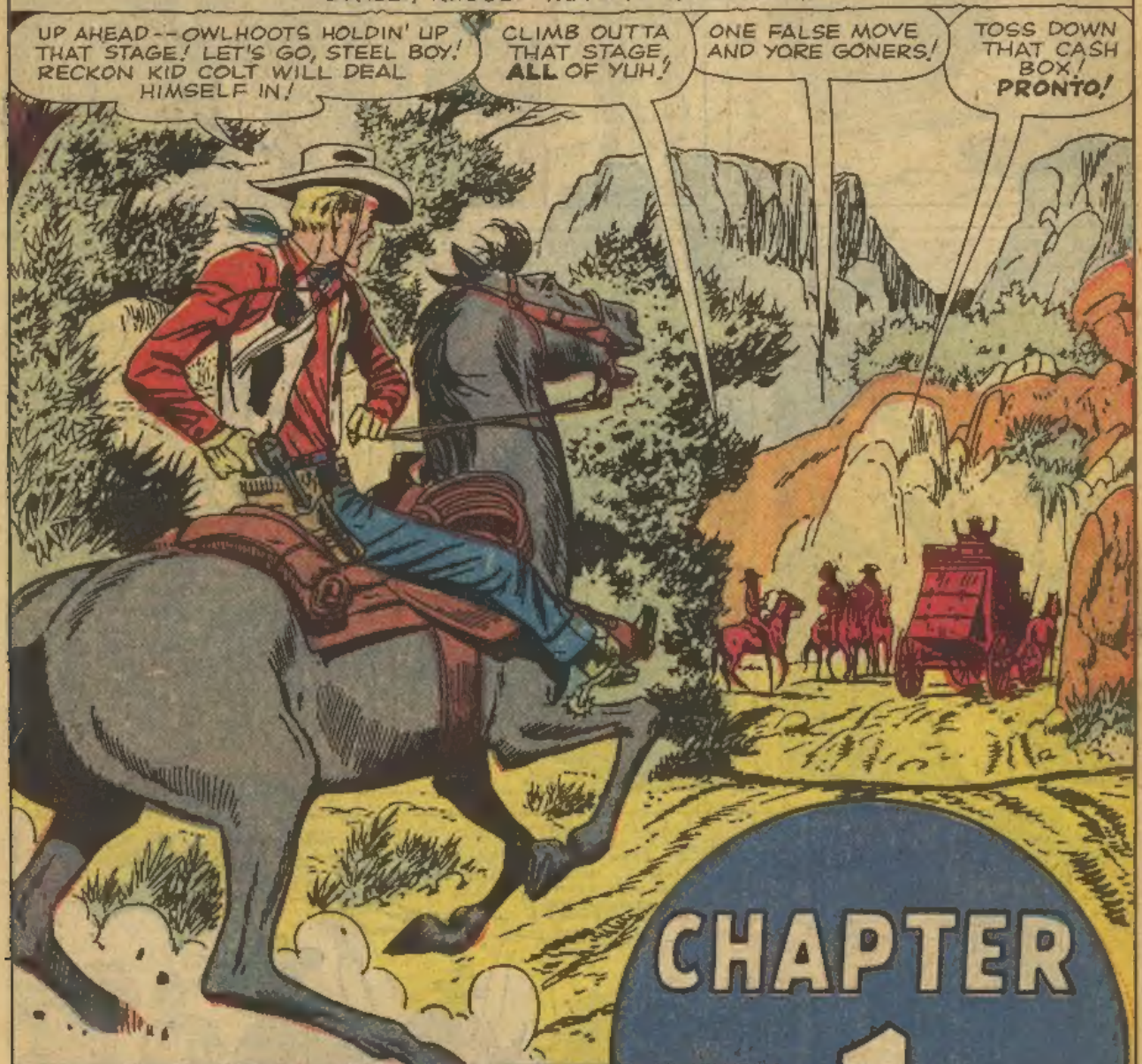
KID COLT OUTLAW

"BEWARE OF MONTANA JOE!"

KID COLT HAD FOUGHT MANY MANY MEN IN HIS TIME, BUT NONE MORE DANGEROUS, NONE MORE SINISTER, NONE MORE DIABOLICALLY CLEVER THAN THE STAGECOACH ROBBER KNOWN SIMPLY AS **MONTANA JOE!** LET US GO BACK TO THE TIME OF THEIR FIRST MEETING ON THE LONELY, RUGGED TRAIL TO TOMBSTONE...


UP AHEAD--OWLHOOTS HOLDIN' UP THAT STAGE! LET'S GO, STEEL BOY! RECKON KID COLT WILL DEAL HIMSELF IN!
CLIMB OUTTA THAT STAGE, ALL OF YUH!
ONE FALSE MOVE AND YORE GONERS!
TOSS DOWN THAT CASH BOX! PRONTO!

CHAPTER 1

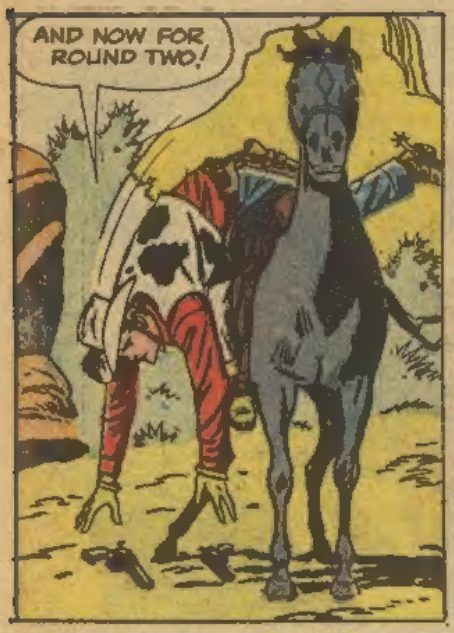
"THE REVENGE OF MONTANA JOE!"

by Stan Lee

KELLER and AYERS

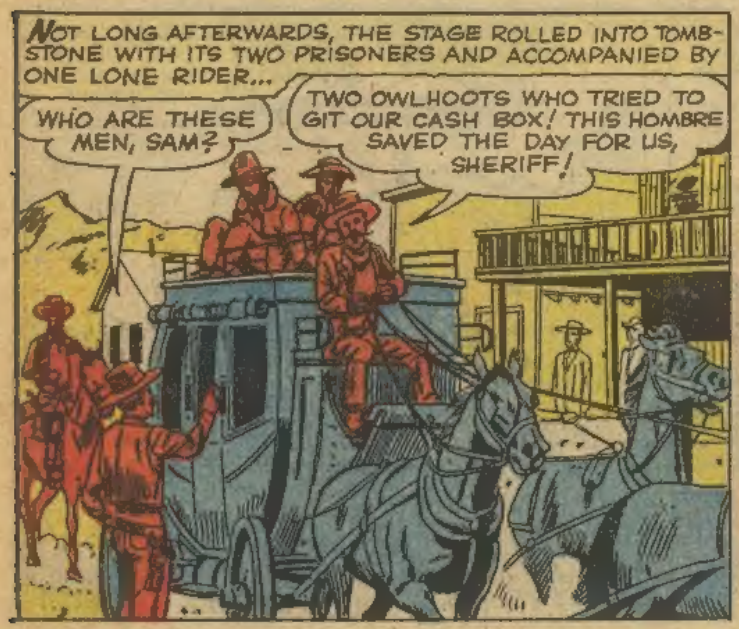
HERE'S THE CASH BOX, HOMBRES!
THUD!
WHAT DO WE DO NOW, MONTANA?
BLAST IT OPEN, YUH FOOL! WHAT DO YUH THINK WE CAME FOR??
BUT WHAT ABOUT THEM?
THE WAY IT LOOKS TO ME, DEAD MEN TELL NO TALES!
NO- NO! YUH WOULDN'T !!
CLICK!
HAW! CAN'T YUH TAKE A LITTLE JOKE?? I WOULDN'T WASTE A BULLET ON YOU WEAK-KNEED CRITTERS! JUST TURN TAIL AND START WALKIN' --AND DON'T LOOK BACK!
START WALKING?? WHERE TO? WE'RE MILES FROM ANYWHERE --WE'LL STARVE!
MEBBE YUH'D RATHER I JUST SHOT YUH THEN??
NO--WE'LL-- WE'LL WALK! WE'LL WALK!
STAY WHERE YUH ARE! DON'T NOBODY MOVE!
HUH?
ROBBIN' A STAGE IS BAD ENUFF, BUT ANY JASPER WHO'D SET INNOCENT PEOPLE ON FOOT, MILES FROM ANY-WHERE, IS NO BETTER'N A MURDERER!
HE'S ONLY ONE HOMBRE --AGAINST THREE OF US! GUN 'IM DOWN!
2

I'LL GIT--OHHH!
BETTER MEN THAN YOU HAVE TRIED IT, HOMBRE!
BLAM!
AND I'VE BEEN SHOT AT FROM BEHIND, TOO! I KNOW ALL THE TRICKS!
MUH ARM!
BLAM!
DROP THEM GUNS, MISTER, OR THIS HOMBRE GETS IT!
NO--NO! HELP!
TAKE IT EASY, JASPER--
LOOKS LIKE THE FIRST ROUND GOES TO YOU!
FIRST ROUND?? HAW--THIS IS THE END FOR YOU! THERE AIN'T GONNA BE NO MORE ROUNDS!
WANNA BET, MISTER?
BEFORE A MANJACK KNEW WHAT HAPPENED, THE KID KICKED HIS MIGHTY STALLION JUST ONCE, IN THE SECRET SIGNAL WHICH STEEL HAD BEEN TRAINED TO RESPOND TO, AND...
UP, STEEL BOY-- KICK, FELLA-- KICK!
MUH GUN!
WHACK!

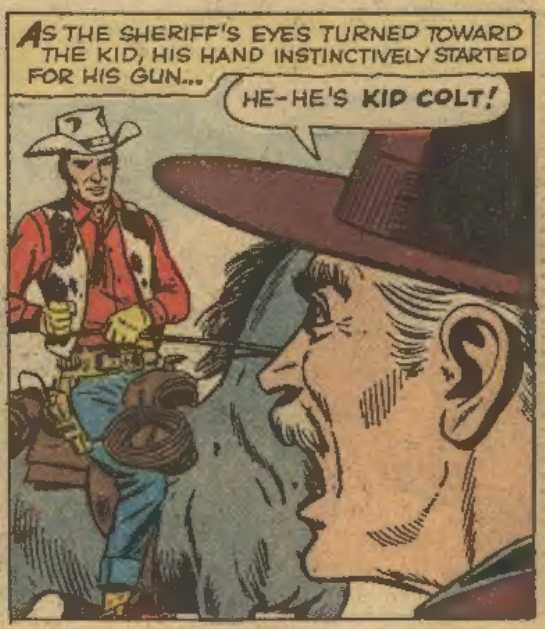


BUT ROUND TWO WAS NOT TO TAKE PLACE JUST THEN, FOR BY THE TIME THE KID TURNED TO FACE HIS FOES AGAIN, HE FOUND THE TWO OUTLAWS WITH THEIR HANDS RAISED IN ABJECT SURRENDER, WHILE THE LEADER OF THE BAND WAS DISAPPEARING 'ROUND THE BEND AT TOP SPEED!

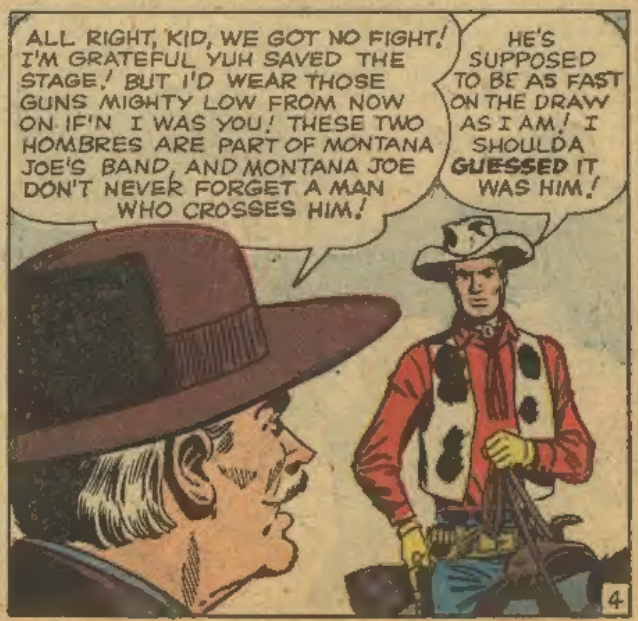
NOT LONG AFTERWARDS, THE STAGE ROLLED INTO TOMBSTONE WITH ITS TWO PRISONERS AND ACCOMPANIED BY ONE LONE RIDER...



AS THE SHERIFF'S EYES TURNED TOWARD THE KID, HIS HAND INSTINCTIVELY STARTED FOR HIS GUN...



BUT THE LAWMAN'S QUIVERING FINGERS NEVER MADE IT!!


ALL RIGHT, KID, WE GOT NO FIGHT! I'M GRATEFUL YUH SAVED THE STAGE! BUT I'D WEAR THOSE GUNS MIGHTY LOW FROM NOW ON IF'N I WAS YOU! THESE TWO HOMBRES ARE PART OF MONTANA JOE'S BAND, AND MONTANA JOE DON'T NEVER FORGET A MAN WHO CROSSES HIM!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AS FAST ON THE DRAW AS I AM! I SHOULDA GUESSED IT WAS HIM!

YORE NOT WANTED IN THIS TOWN, KID, BUT YUH BETTER NOT LEAVE FOR A WHILE! MONTANA JOE IS SURE TO BE WAITIN' FOR YUH WITH THE REST OF HIS BOYS, ON THE TRAIL LEADIN' OUTTA TOWN! YUH WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE!

LOOKS LIKE I GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO STAY AROUND FOR A SPELL THEN!

AND SO THE KID REMAINED IN TOMBSTONE, WARILY WAITING, WATCHING EVERYONE WHO PASSED BY, NEVER KNOWING WHEN MONTANA JOE WOULD STRIKE-- BUT KNOWING FULL WELL THAT HE HAD AN ENEMY WHO WOULD NEVER REST UNTIL HE HAD AVENGED HIMSELF ON THE KID!

PRIVATE

I DON'T LIKE KID COLT HANGIN' 'ROUND TOWN THIS WAY!

ME NEITHER! THERE'LL BE TROUBLE SOONER OR LATER!

HOW DO WE KNOW HE AIN'T IN **CAHOOTS** WITH MONTANA JOE?

MEBBE THEY PLANNED IT THIS WAY TO THROW US OFF GUARD!

YESH, WHAT IF THEY TRY TO TREE THE TOWN TOGETHER?!

MEANWHILE, WHAT OF MONTANA JOE? IN A LONELY CABIN, HIDDEN AWAY IN THE HILLS OUTSIDE OF TOMBSTONE, HE WAS SPENDING HIS TIME AT A STRANGE TASK--SEWING A GARMENT...

THERE--IT'S ALMOST DONE NOW!

IT'S A GOOD JOB, BOSS! LOOKS JUST LIKE THE BUCKSKIN VEST THE KID ALWAYS WEARS!

JUST IN TIME, TOO! THAT STAGE'LL BE COMIN' BY IN ABOUT AN HOUR!

IN THESE BLUE PANTS AND RED SHIRT, WITH A BUCKSKIN VEST, AND MY WHITE HAT PULLED LOW OVER MY FACE, I'LL LOOK AS MUCH LIKE KID COLT AS HE LOOKS LIKE HIMSELF!

CHECK YORE GUNS, BOYS! THIS IS IT!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

FEUD TRAIL

"COURT'S in meeting! Court'll come to order!"

The dry voice of the feed store owner, Clem Hatch could be heard all the way back in the main room of the town hall of Rigby, that doubled as the circuit courtroom once every two months.

Once again the feud between the Carrs and the Bakers had broken out. The feud was old history in the county, having begun thirty years back over the possession of about forty acres of land lying between the Carr and Baker spreads. In recent years, however, it had died down, leaving only smoldering embers of a once-blazing fire. It also left a cordial dislike between the two families. Not once did a Carr ever speak to a Baker except to threaten to take him to court for trespassing. Nor did a Baker speak to a Carr except in the same way. Unless Jim Carr and Bill Baker be counted out. They were both twenty years old and were out of the feud, for schooldays together had taught them to be friends. It had also taught them to be friends in secret.

Judge Hadell leaned over the desk that served as judicial bench and fixed his eye upon the two angry men seated before him.

"You, Dash Carr, charge Cade Baker with trespassing on a piece of land belonging to you." He read off a description of the piece of land. Then he glanced at Baker. "You, Cade Baker, charge Dash Carr with trespassing on land of yours." Again the land description was the same. "You both continue charges?"

"I do, Your Honor!" Leaped from both pairs of lips simultaneously.

"All right," the judge said, riffling through other papers. He picked one out and read through it. "According to this, my predecessor in office, Judge Hicks, had a survey of your land deeds made ten years ago. This established the fact that the land boundaries were substantially as described in both deeds . . ."

"His grandfather hornswoggled that land from mine!" Hotly declared Dash Carr.

"That's not so!" Cade Baker insisted. "It was just the other way around!"

"That's neither here nor there," Judge Hadell said, dryly. "Judge Hicks set the boundaries by law. The boundaries are settled, unless you want to take the matter to the State Supreme Court."

"Couldn't afford it," Dash Carr said.

"Neither could I," Cade Baker said.

"That bein' the case, and in view of the fact that the case is legally settled, and in further view of the fact that according to both statements each man had walked on that disputed land, you're both guilty of trespassing on each other, I hereby fine *each* of you ten dollars!" He held up his hand as both ranchers started to their feet in protest. "Also, I declare that the next time either of you is detected trespassing, I'll fine both of you fifty dollars apiece next session! Next case!" And Judge Hadell angrily banged his gavel down on the desk.

From a spot near the schoolhouse, Jim Carr and Bill Baker once more took up their spades. Both had volunteered to do some repair work on the school foundations. But both had stood at the back of the courtroom listening to their respective fathers being fined . . . and then had departed back to their task. They watched Dash Carr ride down Main Street out toward his ranch. Fifty feet behind came Cade Baker. Both men seemed far from subdued.

"They'll take it hard," Bill said to Jim.

"But they'll do nothing," Jim said. "They know they'd land in the calaboose. They realize the case is settled. But the feud isn't. No law can touch the feelings inside a man. That feud'll go on."

Bill stared dejectedly at the two fathers.

"You know what that means, then," he said. "Sooner or later, one or both of 'em is bound to get het up and hot in the collar, and come down and build a spite fence. Then the other'll tear it down and . . ."

CONTINUED

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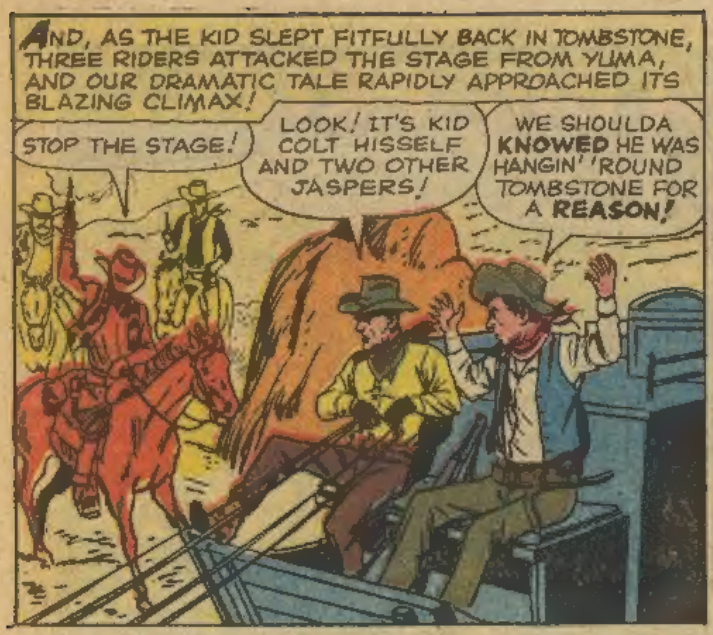
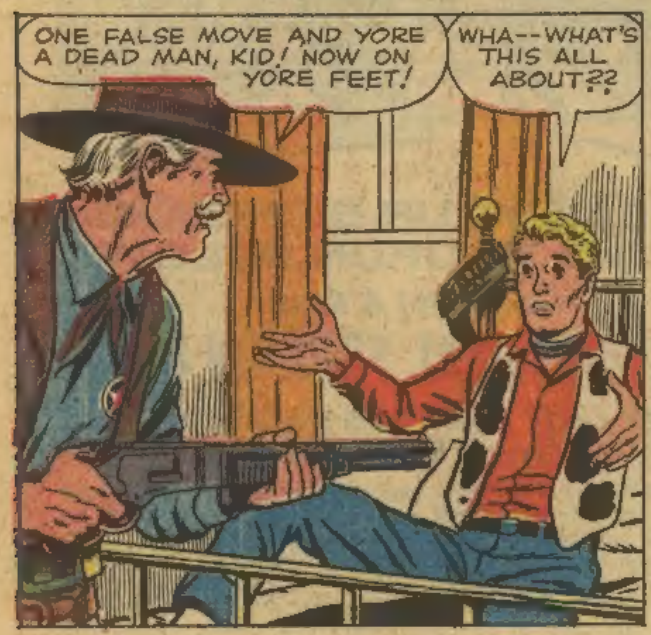

AND, AS THE KID SLEPT FITFULLY BACK IN TOMBSTONE, THREE RIDERS ATTACKED THE STAGE FROM YUMA, AND OUR DRAMATIC TALE RAPIDLY APPROACHED ITS BLAZING CLIMAX!
STOP THE STAGE!
LOOK! IT'S KID COLT HISSELF AND TWO OTHER JASPERS!
WE SHOULDA KNOWED HE WAS HANGIN' 'ROUND TOMBSTONE FOR A REASON!

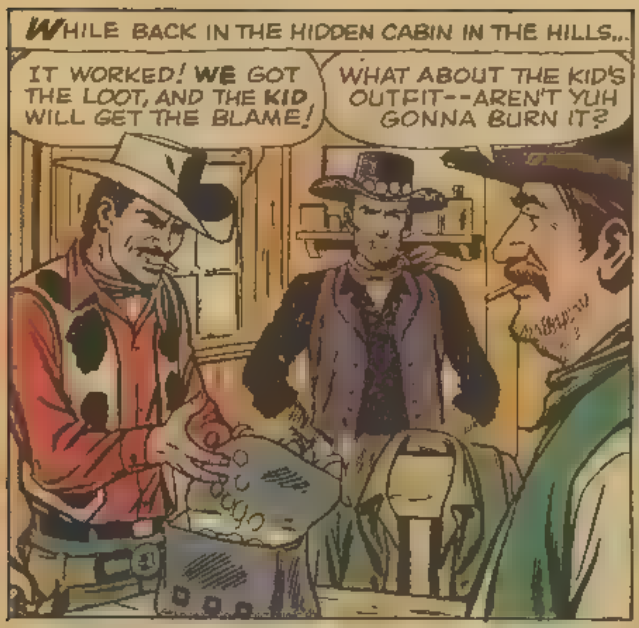
LESS THAN TWO HOURS LATER...
THERE HE IS!
HUH?
CRASH!

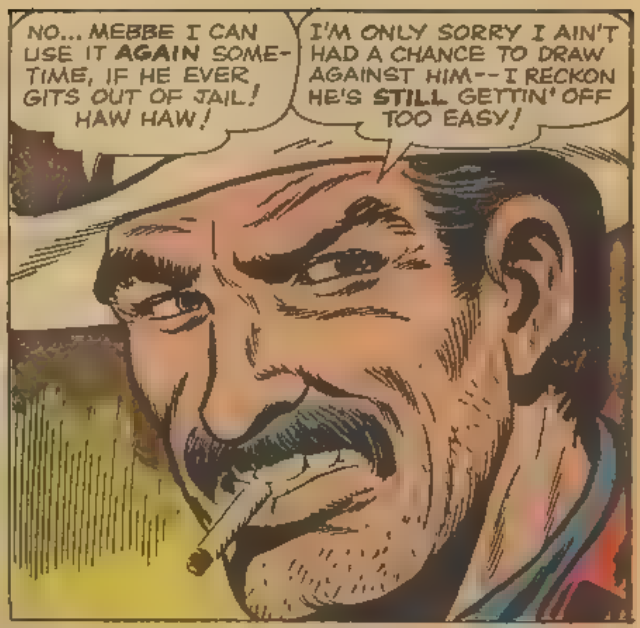

ONE FALSE MOVE AND YORE A DEAD MAN, KID! NOW ON YORE FEET!
WHA--WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT??

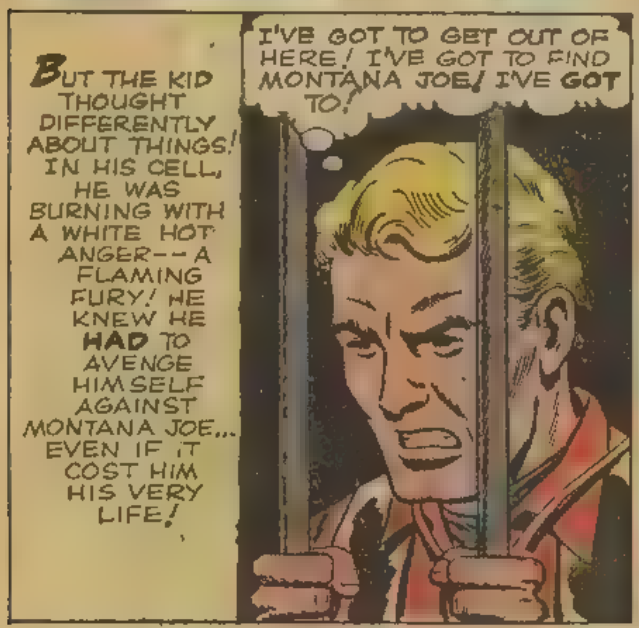
DON'T PLAY INNOCENT WITH ME, HOMBRE! BIGGEST MISTAKE YUH EVER MADE WAS COMING BACK TO TOMBSTONE TONIGHT! YUH SHOULDA HEADED FOR THE BORDER AFTER YUH ROBBED THE STAGE!
STAGE?? WHAT STAGE?

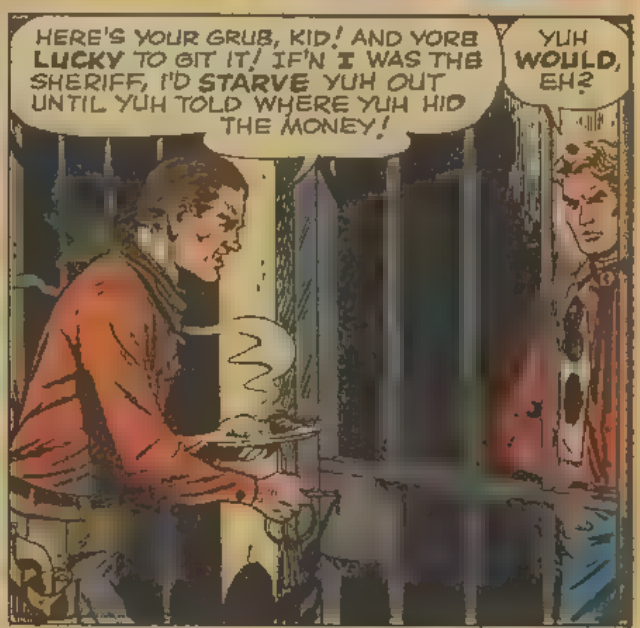
COLT, YUH'LL STAY IN THAT CELL UNTIL YUH TELL US WHERE YUH HID THE CASH BOX FROM THE STAGE!
I TELL YUH YORE MAKIN' A MISTAKE! I DIDN'T LEAVE MY ROOM TONIGHT! I NEVER ROBBED ANY STAGE!

LET ME WORK ON 'IM, SHERIFF! I'LL GIT 'IM TO TALK!
NO, HANK! WE'LL DO IT, LAWFUL! HE CAN'T ESCAPE... AND SOONER OR LATER HE'LL TALK!


WHILE BACK IN THE HIDDEN CABIN IN THE HILLS...
IT WORKED! WE GOT THE LOOT, AND THE KID WILL GET THE BLAME!
WHAT ABOUT THE KID'S OUTFIT--AREN'T YUH GONNA BURN IT?


NO... MEBBE I CAN USE IT AGAIN SOMETIME, IF HE EVER GITS OUT OF JAIL! HAW HAW!
I'M ONLY SORRY I AIN'T HAD A CHANCE TO DRAW AGAINST HIM--I RECKON HE'S STILL GETTIN' OFF TOO EASY!


BUT THE KID THOUGHT DIFFERENTLY ABOUT THINGS! IN HIS CELL, HE WAS BURNING WITH A WHITE HOT ANGER--A FLAMING FURY! HE KNEW HE HAD TO AVENGE HIMSELF AGAINST MONTANA JOE... EVEN IF IT COST HIM HIS VERY LIFE!
I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! I'VE GOT TO FIND MONTANA JOE! I'VE GOT TO!


HERE'S YOUR GRUB, KID! AND YORE LUCKY TO GIT IT! IF'N I WAS THE SHERIFF, I'D STARVE YUH OUT UNTIL YUH TOLD WHERE YUH HID THE MONEY!
YUH WOULD, EH?

MISTER, IF YUH WERE THE SHERIFF, YUH'D BE TOO SMART TO LEAVE YORESELF OPEN FOR A TRICK LIKE THIS!
OWWW--I-I CAN'T SEE!
SPLAT!

I'LL JUST BORROW THESE IRONS OF YORES FOR A SPELL, AND YUH CAN WAIT IN THERE UNTIL YUH WIPE THE GRUB OUTTA YORE EYES! AS FOR ME--I GOT A JOB TO DO!
CLANG!
7

KID COLT OUTLAW

CHAPTER 2 "THE KID STRIKES BACK!"

KID, QUICK--LET US OUT, TOO!
WE'LL HELP YUH GIT AWAY! WE'LL RIDE WITH YUH! BUT LET US OUT -- HURRY!
LET YUH OUT?? YOU JASPERS ARE LUCKY I DON'T FINISH YUH OFF RIGHT NOW! LIKE I'M A'GOIN' TO DO TO MONTANA JOE!
THIS WAS NO MERE CRIMINAL ESCAPING A SMALL TOWN JAIL! THIS WAS NO MERE OWLHOOT, FLEEING IN PANIC FROM THE VENGEANCE OF THE LAW! NO! THIS WAS THE MOST FEARED HUMAN FIGHTING MACHINE THE WEST HAD EVER KNOWN -- THIS WAS KID COLT, ABOUT TO TAKE THE VENGEANCE TRAIL! THIS WAS RETRIBUTION WITH ITS GUNS HUNG LOW! THIS WAS THE PAY OFF!
by Stan Lee
Keller and Ayers

SCANT MINUTES LATER...
YOU LAME-BRAINED COYOTE! HOW'D YUH LET HIM GIT THE DROP ON YUH??
I DUNNO -- IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST! BUT WE CAN STILL GIT 'IM! HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
QUICK, YOU TWO -- TALK! WHICH WAY DID THE KID GO?
THE MANGY VARMINT RAN OUT THAT THERE DOOR, LAWMAN! MOST LIKELY HEADIN' FOR THE MOUNTAIN ROAD OUT OF TOMBSTONE!
I HOPE YUH CATCH 'IM AND DRAG 'IM BACK HERE BY HIS HEELS!
WE'LL CATCH 'IM ALL RIGHT--LET'S RIDE!
JUST WAIT'LL I GIT 'IM IN MUH SIGHT AGAIN! JUST WAIT!
COUNTY JAIL
GOOD! THEY REACTED JUST AS I FIGGERED THEY WOULD! NOW I'LL HAVE TIME FOR WHAT I'VE GOTTA DO!
IN MY YEARS ON THE RUN, I LEARNED ONE THING -- THE SAFEST PLACE TO HIDE IS RIGHT UNDER THE NOSES OF THE MEN WHO ARE LOOKIN' FOR YUH!
LOOK! IT'S THE KID AGAIN!
HE DIDN'T RIDE OFF!
NO, I DIDN'T RIDE OFF! I GOT A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST!
WHA-WHAT ARE YUH GONNA DO?
DON'T -- YUH CAN'T! NOT IN COLD BLOOD!
9

STOP SLOBBERIN'! I'VE GOT OTHER PLANS FOR YUH!
BLAM BAM OOM!
MOUNT UP, PRONTO! WE'RE GOIN' FOR A LITTLE RIDE!
WHERE--? WHY??
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS, YUH FOOL! DO WHAT HE SAYS!
LOOK--THE KID'S ESCAPIN' --WITH THEM OTHER TWO JASPERS!
SOMEBODY STOP 'EM!
WHO? I DON'T WANNA BE A DEAD HERO-- HOW ABOUT YOU??
N-NOT ME! IT'S THE SHERIFF'S JOB!
NOW LISTEN GOOD, YOU HOMBRES, BECAUSE I AIN'T GONNA SAY IT A SECOND TIME! -- EITHER YUH LEAD ME TO MONTANA JOE'S HIDEOUT, OR I DROP YUH IN YORE TRACKS NOW! SAVVY?
WE SAVVY!
WE'RE LUCKY! ONCE THE KID GETS TO MONTANA JOE'S, MONTANA HIMSELF WILL FINISH 'IM OFF!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE KID WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
THIS IS A WILD GOOSE CHASE! I DON'T SEE A TRACE OF ANY TRACKS! THE KID COULDN'T HAVE COME THIS WAY!
WELL, HE COULDN'T HAVE VANISHED INTO THIN AIR! HE'S GOT TO BE HERE SOMEWHERE!
SHERIFF! LOOK! THAT CLOUD OF DUST YONDER! IT MUST BE HIM!
10
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE...

I EARN BIG PAY and I WORK EVERY DAY!

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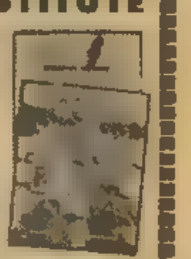

Name _____ Age ____

Address _____

City _____ Zone ____ State ____

LOOK, ON THAT RIDGE YONDER! TWO RIDERS!
MOST LIKELY THE SHERIFF AND HIS DEPUTY!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM! I'LL HAVE DONE MY JOB LONG BEFORE THEY CAN REACH US!
AND SO, THE WEB OF FATE DRAWS CLOSER AND CLOSER, AS WE FIND MONTANA JOE AND HIS MEN IN HIS HIDDEN CABIN...
BOSS, I HEARD HOSSES!
UP HERE? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
GO OUT AND CHECK ANYWAY!
THERE AIN'T NO ONE HERE!
UGH!
ONE SOUND OUTTA YOU, AND IT'LL BE YORE LAST!
THE KID!
RED, GO OUT AND SEE WHAT'S KEEPIN' BEN!
I DON'T LIKE IT! IT'S TOO QUIET OUT THERE!

WHA-WHAT ARE YOU HOMBRES DOIN' HERE? HOW--?
MMFFF...
UGH!
THAT DOES IT! NOW THERE'S ONLY MONTANA JOE LEFT!
BUT INSIDE THE CABIN, MONTANA JOE HAD SEEN WHAT HAD HAPPENED, AND...
IT'S THE KID! I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT, BUT I'LL FINISH HIM OFF FOR GOOD NOW!
I'LL SWING THE DOOR OPEN SUDDENLY AND RUN OUT SHOOTIN'! THE KID WON'T BE EXPECTIN' IT, AND HE WON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
BUT THE WILY KID COLT WAS ONE JUMP AHEAD OF MONTANA JOE! FOR BEFORE THE OUTLAW COULD OPEN THE DOOR FROM THE INSIDE...
I BEEN LOOKIN' FORWARD TO THIS FOR QUITE A SPELL, MONTANA!
OOOF!
WHUMP!
12

I'LL CRUSH YUH LIKE A BEETLE!
MEBBE YUH COULD, IF TALKIN' WAS THE SAME AS FIGHTIN'!
SWISH!
THIS IS FOR TRYIN' TO MAKE A PATSY OUTTA ME, MONTANA!
HA, YUH DIDN'T THINK I HAD ANOTHER GUN! NOW YORE FINISHED!
AND THIS IS FOR THINKIN' YORE IN THE SAME CLASS AS ME WITH A GUN!
NO--NOBODY CAN DRAW LIKE THAT!
KA-POW
AND THIS IS BECAUSE I HAVEN'T ANY MORE TIME TO PLAY WITH YUH! THE SHERIFF'S ALMOST HERE!
POW
THE KID WAS RIGHT! THE SHERIFF WAS JUST MINUTES FROM THE CABIN, AND WHEN HE FINALLY REACHED IT, HE FOUND...
LOOK, SHERIFF--ALL FOUR OF MONTANA JOE'S BOYS--TIED UP AND WAITIN' FOR US!
AND THERE'S MONTANA JOE HIMSELF--DRESSED LIKE KID COLT! I--I SEE IT NOW! IT WASN'T THE KID WHO PULLED THAT STAGE COACH JOB ,T WAS MONTANA! HE WANTED THE KID TO GET THE BLAME!
.3
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE KID? A N'T WE GONNA GO AFTER HIM?
ONLY REASON WE'D HAVE TO GO AFTER HIM WOULD BE TO THANK HIM FOR HAND.N' US MONTANA JOE AND HIS GANG ON A SILVER PLATTER! AND SOMEHOW I GOT A FEELIN' THAT KID COLT AIN'T ONE TO HANKER FOR THANKS!
LET'S RIDE, STEEL! OUR WORK IN TOMBSTONE IS FINISHED!
YES, THE KID'S WORK IN TOMBSTONE [redacted] FINISHED--FOR THEN! BUT THERE WERE MANY MORE BATTLES TO BE FOUGHT... MANY MORE GUNMEN TO BE FACED--FOR SUCH WAS THE DESTINY OF KID COLT, OUTLAW!
THE END

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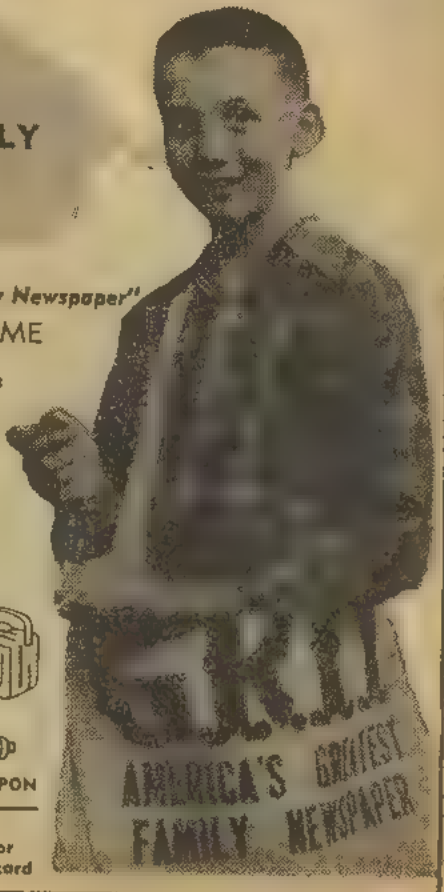

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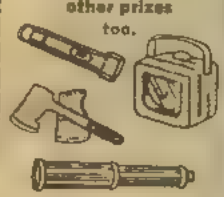

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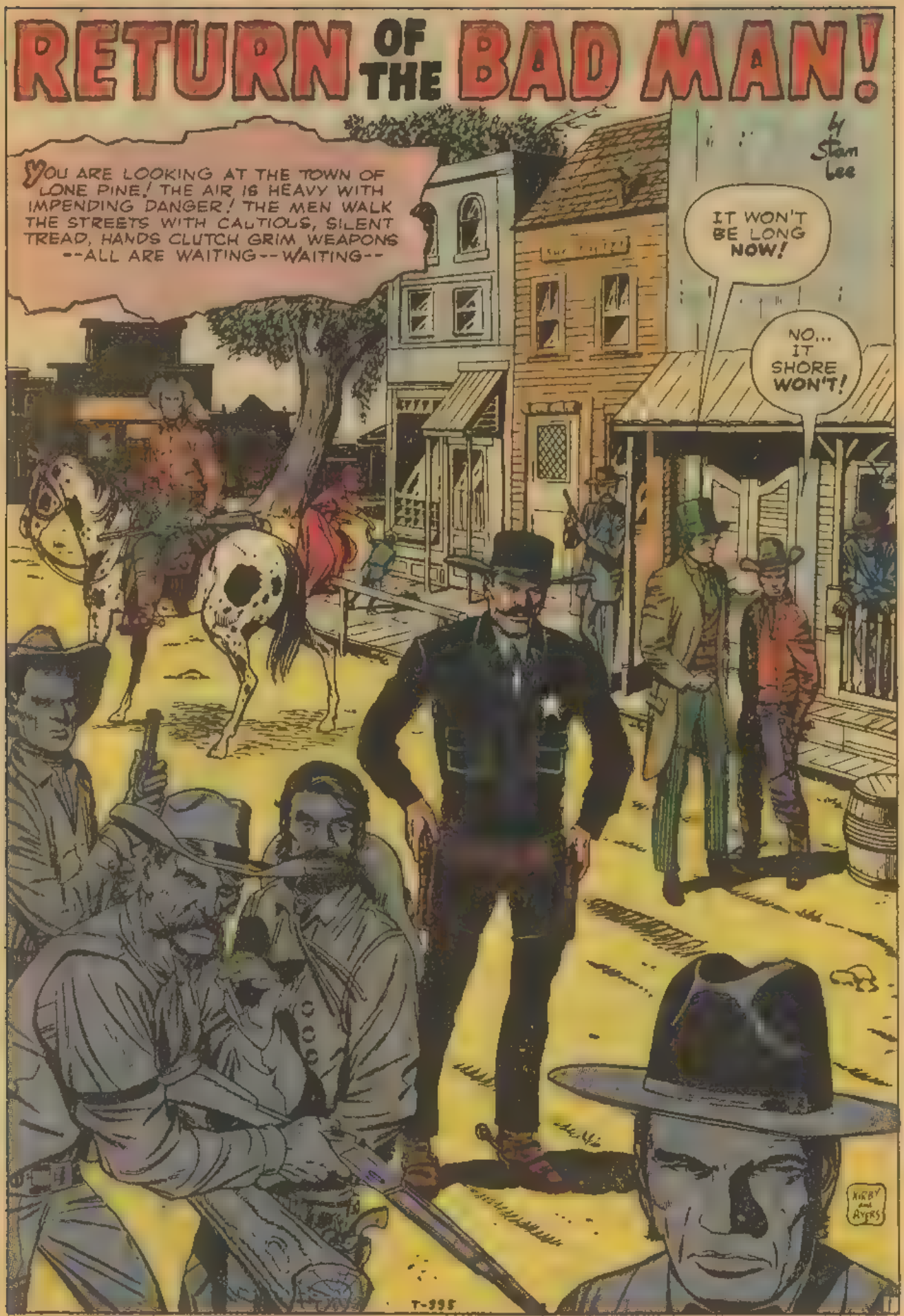
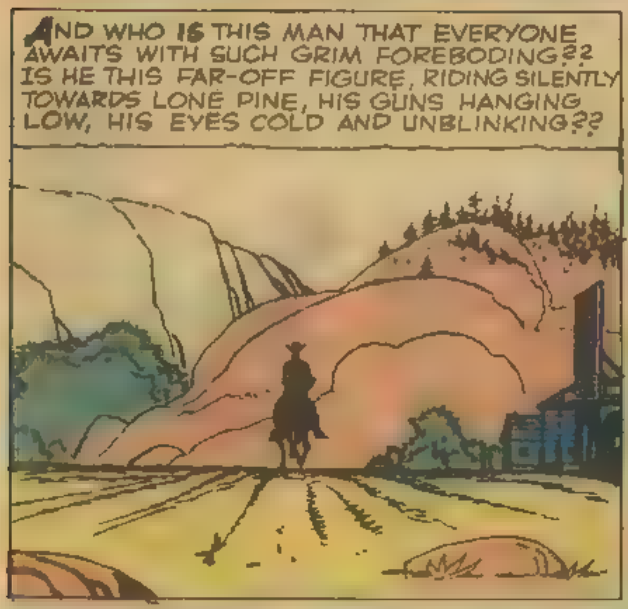
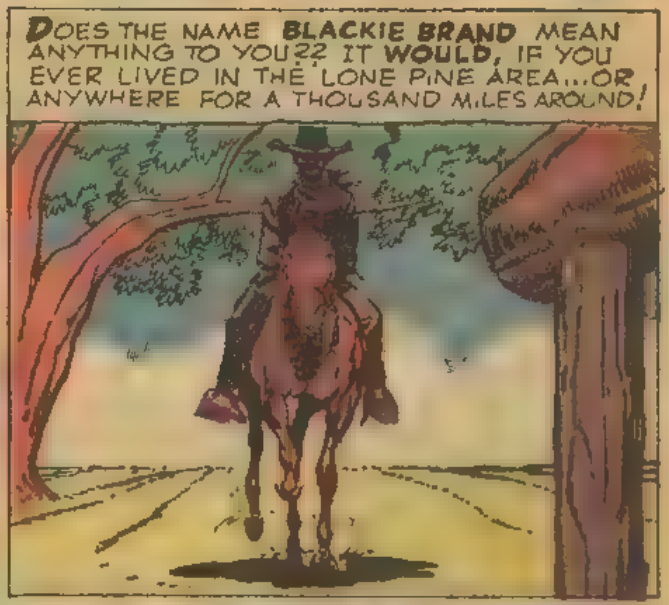

RETURN OF THE BAD MAN!
by Stan Lee
YOU ARE LOOKING AT THE TOWN OF LONE PINE! THE AIR IS HEAVY WITH IMPENDING DANGER! THE MEN WALK THE STREETS WITH CAUTIOUS, SILENT TREAD, HANDS CLUTCH GRIM WEAPONS --ALL ARE WAITING--WAITING--
IT WON'T BE LONG NOW!
NO... IT SHORE WON'T!
KIRBY and AYERS
T-995

RECKON HE SHOULD BE GETTIN' HERE SOON!
RECKON SO!

WELL, LET 'IM COME! WE'RE READY FOR 'IM!


AND WHO IS THIS MAN THAT EVERYONE AWAITS WITH SUCH GRIM FOREBODING?? IS HE THIS FAR-OFF FIGURE, RIDING SILENTLY TOWARDS LONE PINE, HIS GUNS HANGING LOW, HIS EYES COLD AND UNBLINKING??

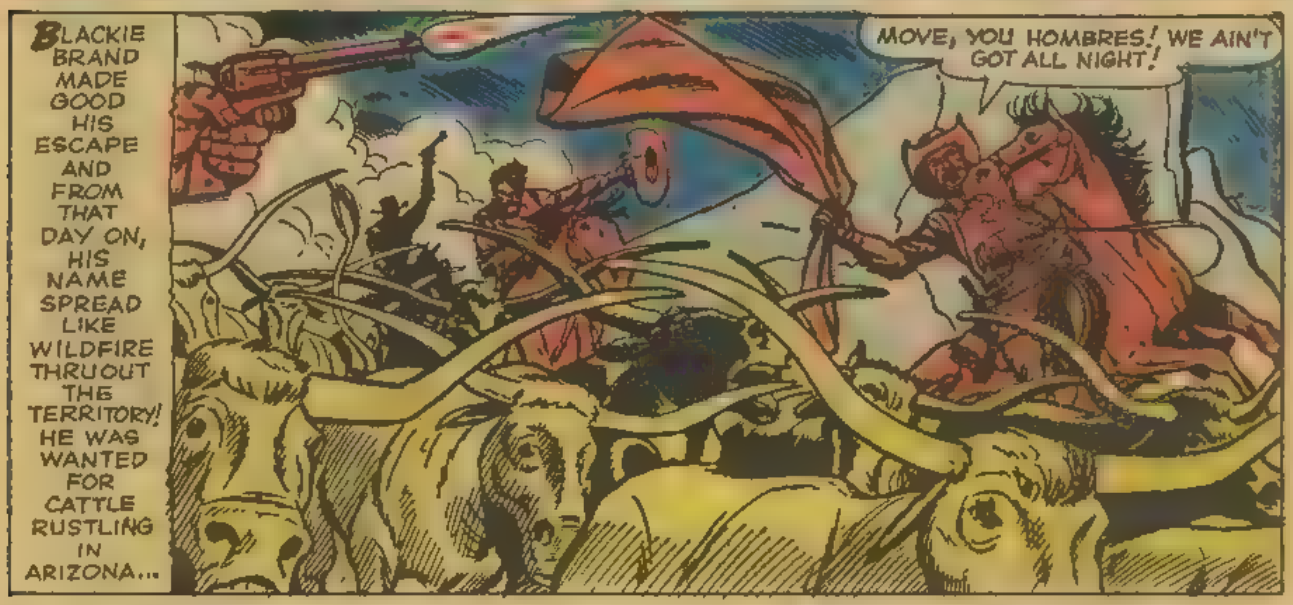

DOES THE NAME BLACKIE BRAND MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?? IT WOULD, IF YOU EVER LIVED IN THE LONE PINE AREA...OR ANYWHERE FOR A THOUSAND MILES AROUND!

BLACKIE BRAND! HIS NAME MADE STRONG MEN TREMBLE! BLACKIE BRAND ...WITH THE FASTEST GUN, AND THE MEANEST HEART IN THE STATE! BLACKIE BRAND, THE MOST DANGEROUS OUTLAW IN THE TERRITORY! THIS IS THE FACE OF BLACKIE BRAND! THIS IS THE MAN WHO IS HEADING STRAIGHT FOR LONE PINE! THIS IS DANGER, IN THE SADDLE!

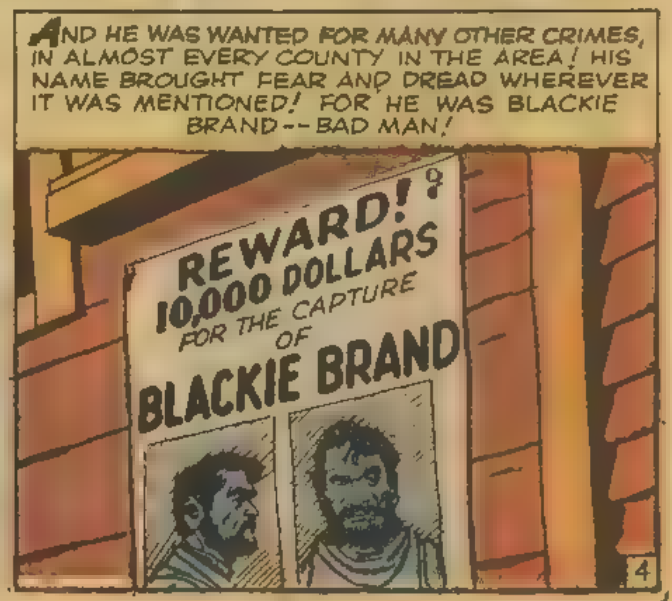
THEY SAY THE SHERIFF AIN'T SLEPT FOR 'MOST A WEEK!
NO SHERIFF COULD, KNOWIN' THAT BLACKIE BRAND WUZ A'COMIN'!
THEY SAY BRAND'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE MOST DANGEROUS OWLHOOT IN THESE PARTS!
HE'S WANTED FOR EVERY CRIME IN THE BOOK!
BEATS ME WHY HE LET FOLKS KNOW HE'S A'COMIN' TO LONE PINE!
WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THE MAN WHO COULD MAKE AN ENTIRE TOWN TREMBLE?? LET US GO BACK A FEW YEARS, BACK TO THAT FATEFUL DAY WHEN BLACKIE BRAND FIRST EMBARKED ON HIS LIFE OF CRIME...
BRAND, I'VE WORKED FOR YEARS TO SAVE THAT MONEY! YOU CAN'T--
I CAN AND I WILL! NOW CLAM UP AND NO ONE WILL GIT HURT!
WHEN NEXT HE STRUCK, HE HAD TURNED TO STAGECOACHES...
WHAT HAPPENED, BOYS?
WE WUZ HELD UP AT CAYUTE GULCH! IT WUZ BLACKIE BRAND!
BUT SOONER OR LATER, THE LAW CATCHES UP WITH OWLHOOTS, AND SO IT WAS WITH BLACKIE BRAND...
TOSS DOWN 'THEM GUNS, BRAND, OR WE SHOOT!
THEY'RE ALL AROUND ME-- I GOT NO CHANCE!
LOOK! HE'S THROWIN' THEM DOWN!
WE CAUGHT 'IM!
3

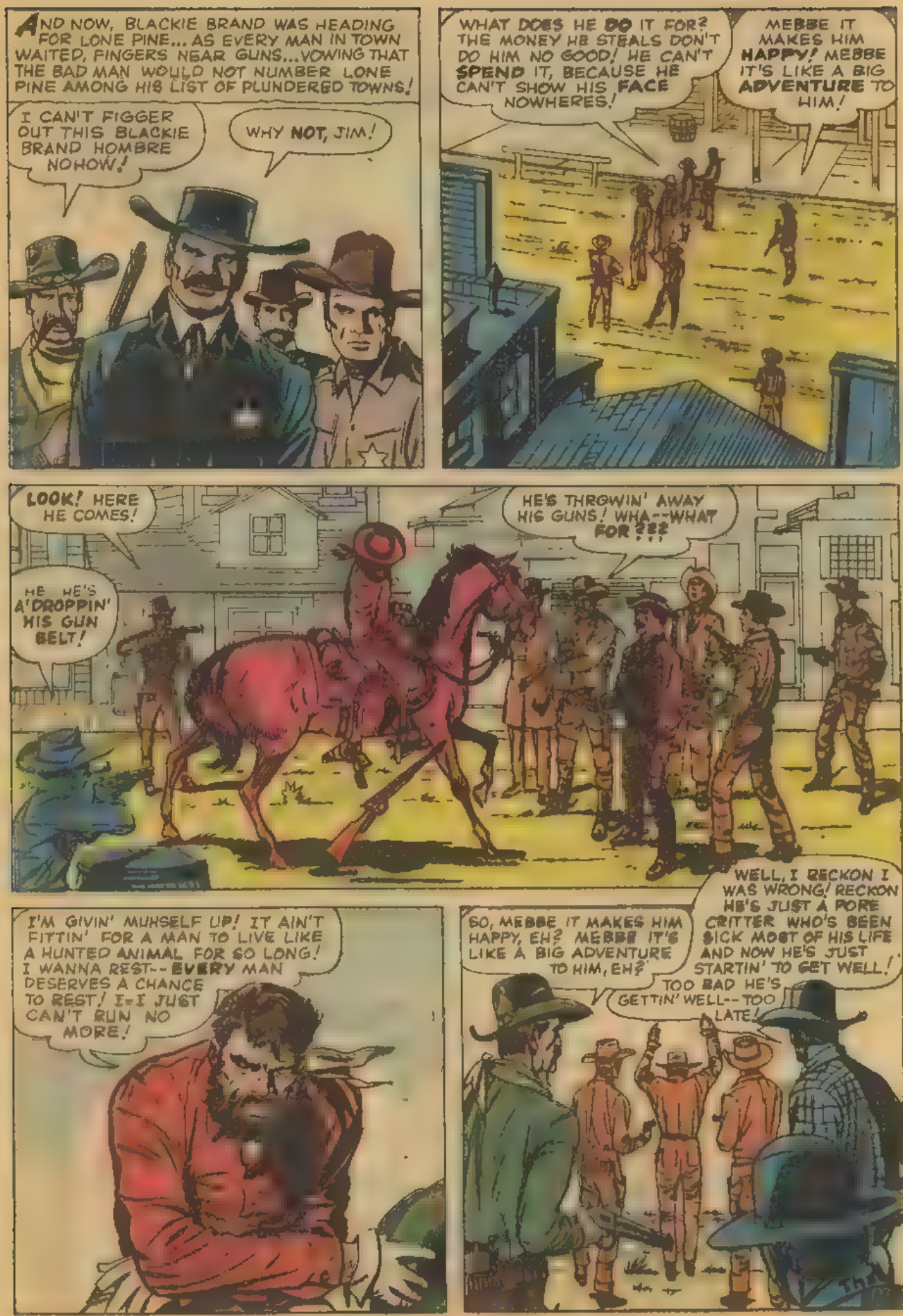
YES, BLACKIE BRAND WAS TAKEN TO JAIL, BUT ON HIS FIRST NIGHT BEHIND BARS...
GUARD--HELP! THE JAIL'S ON FIRE! HELP!

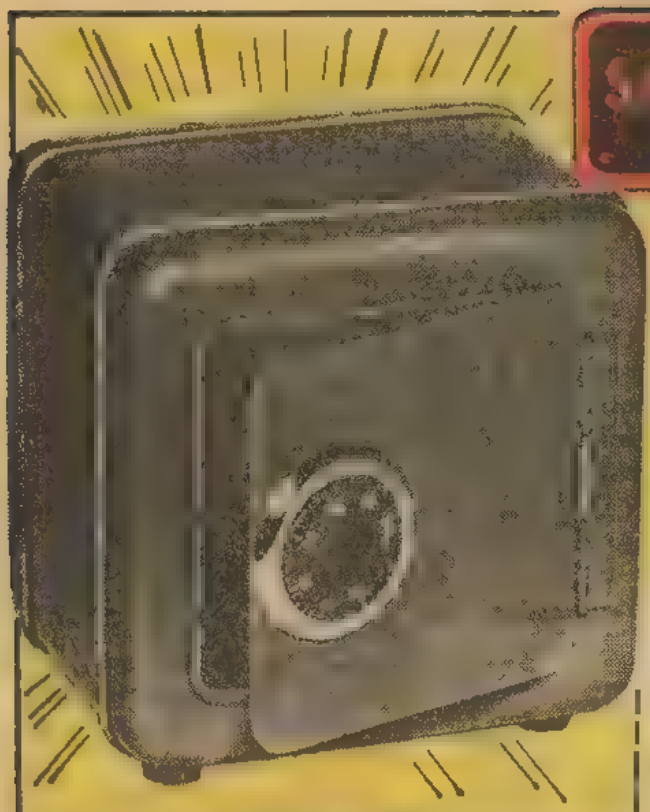
I'LL HELP YUH GET--UGH!
HAH! I KNEW THAT SMOKING MATTRESS TRICK WOULD GIT YUH!


BLACKIE BRAND MADE GOOD HIS ESCAPE AND FROM THAT DAY ON, HIS NAME SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE THRUOUT THE TERRITORY! HE WAS WANTED FOR CATTLE RUSTLING IN ARIZONA...
MOVE, YOU HOMBRES! WE AIN'T GOT ALL NIGHT!

HE WAS WANTED FOR ATTEMPTED BANK ROBBERY IN MONTANA...
GOOD THING WE EQUIPPED THE BANK WITH THOSE NEW BURGLAR-PROOF SAFES!
DON'T WORRY! HE'LL GIT HISSELF CAUGHT SOONER OR LATER!
BUT LOOK-- BLACKIE BRAND IS GETTIN' AWAY!


AND HE WAS WANTED FOR MANY OTHER CRIMES, IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTY IN THE AREA! HIS NAME BROUGHT FEAR AND DREAD WHEREVER IT WAS MENTIONED! FOR HE WAS BLACKIE BRAND--BAD MAN!
REWARD!
10,000 DOLLARS
FOR THE CAPTURE OF
BLACKIE BRAND


AND NOW, BLACKIE BRAND WAS HEADING FOR LONE PINE... AS EVERY MAN IN TOWN WAITED, FINGERS NEAR GUNS...VOWING THAT THE BAD MAN WOULD NOT NUMBER LONE PINE AMONG HIS LIST OF PLUNDERED TOWNS!
I CAN'T FIGGER OUT THIS BLACKIE BRAND HOMBRE NOHOW!
WHY NOT, JIM!
WHAT DOES HE DO IT FOR? THE MONEY HE STEALS DON'T DO HIM NO GOOD! HE CAN'T SPEND IT, BECAUSE HE CAN'T SHOW HIS FACE NOWHERES!
MEBBE IT MAKES HIM HAPPY! MEBBE IT'S LIKE A BIG ADVENTURE TO HIM!
LOOK! HERE HE COMES!
HE HE'S A'DROPPIN' HIS GUN BELT!
HE'S THROWIN' AWAY HIS GUNS! WHA--WHAT FOR ???
I'M GIVIN' MUHSELF UP! IT AIN'T FITTIN' FOR A MAN TO LIVE LIKE A HUNTED ANIMAL FOR SO LONG! I WANNA REST-- EVERY MAN DESERVES A CHANCE TO REST! I-I JUST CAN'T RUN NO MORE!
SO, MEBBE IT MAKES HIM HAPPY, EH? MEBBE IT'S LIKE A BIG ADVENTURE TO HIM, EH?
TOO BAD HE'S GETTIN' WELL-- TOO LATE!
WELL, I RECKON I WAS WRONG! RECKON HE'S JUST A PORE CRITTER WHO'S BEEN SICK MOST OF HIS LIFE AND NOW HE'S JUST STARTIN' TO GET WELL!



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CONTINUED

"And both of 'em will be fined fifty dollars," Jim said.

"If there was only some way to get rid of land, some way of ending the feud . . ."

"The day you can get rid of land entirely, it'll be able to fly," Jim observed.

They worked away at their task until past noon, then dropped their shovels, said good-bye to the other volunteers, mounted their cayuses and rode home for lunch. Both parents knew, of course, that their sons had been working with others at the school. Both parents were glad their sons had volunteered for such a task, but each took for granted the fact that so great was the dislike between both families that neither of the boys would speak to each other.

Slowly the boys rode out of town onto the trail leading to the road that led past both the Carr and Baker spreads. But the fact that their parents might still be on the road made them change their minds and cut cross-country toward the Chazos River and its several branches. The river was in full stage, and they had to swim their horses across.

Emerging at the other side, they rode down a gully that ended in a slight rise. Here they paused to part. Beyond the rise was the boundary between the two spreads. Any riders topping it could be visible from both ranch houses.

Suddenly, Jim gave a start.

"What's wrong?" Bill asked.

Jim said nothing for a moment, then, silently pointed to the gully and then to the rise, with a gesture.

Bill's eyes widened. Abruptly he gave a smothered laugh.

"Why sure," he said, "but . . ."

"But nothing," Jim pursued. "We could do it easy. Tell you what, I'll met you out here tonight at midnight. I've been sleeping, lately, at the bunkhouse so's to get into the saddle early. They'll never miss me."

Bill nodded eagerly. Then both of them parted and rode down the rise until they were half a mile apart. Both of them topped it and hightailed it down the steep slope on the other side for home.

It was a little past midnight when two dark figures met at the dividing line that separated both spreads. Both carried lanterns.

"Think they can spot us from the house?" Jim asked Bill.

Bill shook his head negatively. "The rise is just high enough to hide the light."

They disappeared toward the rise.

It was seven o'clock when Dash Carr was awakened by excited sounds from his wife.

"Get up!" she cried. "Rud Marple wants you. Something's happened."

Mr. Carr dressed and got downstairs. The foreman of his ranch looked at him oddly.

"That land you and Baker are always arguin' about, boss . . ." he began. "Well, it just ain't there!"

"Not there?" Carr began, but headed, instead for his horse, followed by the foreman. A ten minute ride brought him to the Baker boundary. Then he gasped.

Where the forty-acre disputed tract had been was now a rapidly-filling shallow lake. Water pouring through a cut in the rise was coming in fast from Chazos River.

"The way I figured it, boss," Marple began, "the Chazos must have undermined its banks, run through the gully and then cut through the rise." He pointed to the dry, powdery ground caving away under the rush of the waters. "She was bank-full . . . might have done it any time before."

Dash Car said nothing, only chuckled a little. He was staring across the newly created lake to where Cade Baker stood with his own foreman looking incredulously at the water.

"I reckon there's nothing to fight about, now," he said.

On the road into town, Jim Carr and Bill Baker rode side by side on their way to work on the school foundation.

"She went faster than I'd thought," Jim said. "I figured all we'd have to do was make a twenty-foot cut on the bank and then the rise, and the water would pour through the cuts and widen them slowly. But that water was fast!"

"Yep," Bill said proudly. "She cut most of the channel, the Chazos did. I wonder what our dads are doing now."

"Probably figuring how they'll be able to save five hours a week watering the herds, now that the river water's on the land. I know one thing, though . . . they aren't fighting about it."

Bill chuckled. "Nope, there's nothing to fight about any more!"

THE END J-952

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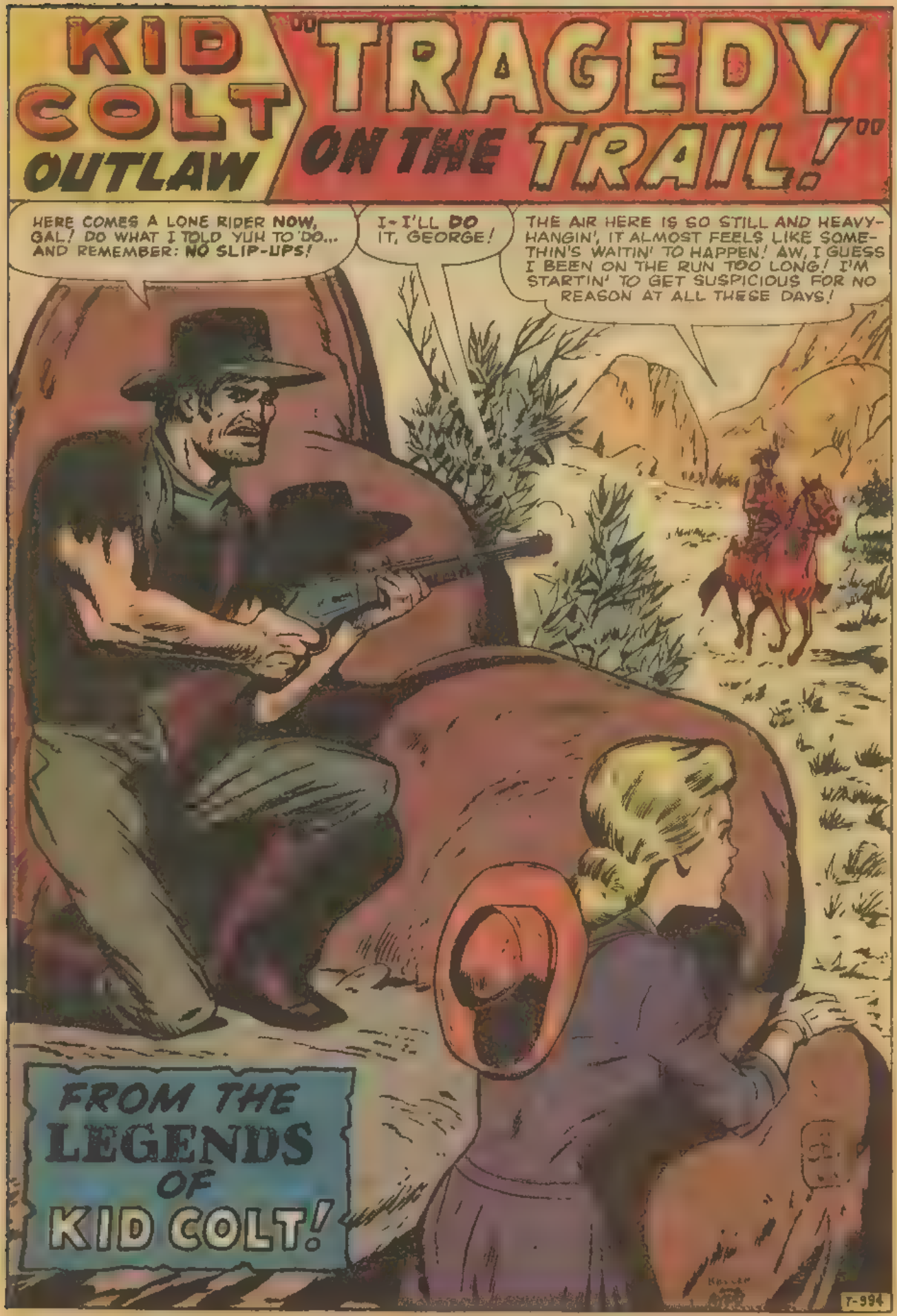
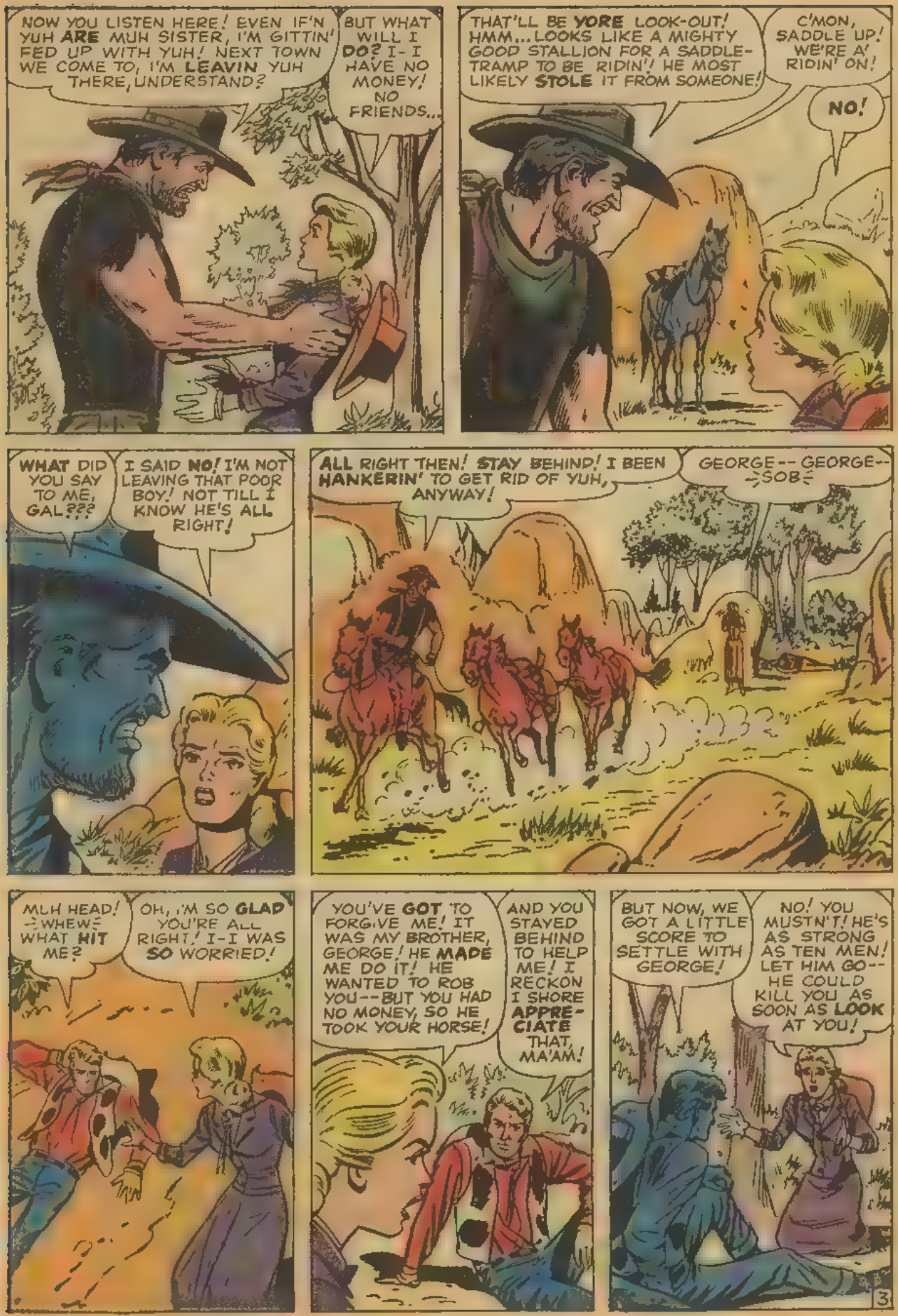

KID COLT OUTLAW
"TRAGEDY ON THE TRAIL!"
HERE COMES A LONE RIDER NOW, GAL! DO WHAT I TOLD YUH TO DO... AND REMEMBER: NO SLIP-UPS!
I-I'LL DO IT, GEORGE!
THE AIR HERE IS SO STILL AND HEAVY-HANGIN', IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE SOMETHIN'S WAITIN' TO HAPPEN! AW, I GUESS I BEEN ON THE RUN TOO LONG! I'M STARTIN' TO GET SUSPICIOUS FOR NO REASON AT ALL THESE DAYS!
FROM THE LEGENDS OF KID COLT!
T-994

MISTER! HELP! PLEASE HELP!
WHOA, THERE, STEEL! A GAL'S IN TROUBLE!
MY HORSE! HE HURT HIS ANKLE! I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO! HE'S IN THERE... IN THAT CLUMP OF TREES!
NOW DON'T YOU WORRY MA'AM! I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK-SEE FOR YOU!
I DON'T SEE 'IM, MA'AM!
A LITTLE FURTHER IN, MISTER!
NOW!
UGH!
HAH!
BAH! IT WUZ ALMOST A WASTE OF TIME! HE'S HARDLY CARRYIN' NO MONEY A-TALL!
OH, GEORGE! I-I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T HURT HIM!
WHAT IF I DID?? HE'S JUST A LONE SADDLE-TRAMP! NOBODY'D MISS 'IM! C'MON, AT LEAST I'LL GIT HIS HOSS AND SADDLE!
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO LEAVE HIM THERE? MAYBE HE NEEDS A DOCTOR! GEORGE, WAIT!
2


NOW YOU LISTEN HERE! EVEN IF'N YUH ARE MUH SISTER, I'M GITTIN' FED UP WITH YUH! NEXT TOWN WE COME TO, I'M LEAVIN YUH THERE, UNDERSTAND?
BUT WHAT WILL I DO? I- I HAVE NO MONEY! NO FRIENDS...
THAT'LL BE YORE LOOK-OUT! HMM... LOOKS LIKE A MIGHTY GOOD STALLION FOR A SADDLE-TRAMP TO BE RIDIN'! HE MOST LIKELY STOLE IT FROM SOMEONE!
C'MON, SADDLE UP! WE'RE A' RIDIN' ON!
NO!
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME, GAL???
I SAID NO! I'M NOT LEAVING THAT POOR BOY! NOT TILL I KNOW HE'S ALL RIGHT!
ALL RIGHT THEN! STAY BEHIND! I BEEN HANKERIN' TO GET RID OF YUH, ANYWAY!
GEORGE-- GEORGE-- SOB
MUH HEAD! WHEW WHAT HIT ME?
OH, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! I-I WAS SO WORRIED!
YOU'VE GOT TO FORGIVE ME! IT WAS MY BROTHER, GEORGE! HE MADE ME DO IT! HE WANTED TO ROB YOU--BUT YOU HAD NO MONEY, SO HE TOOK YOUR HORSE!
AND YOU STAYED BEHIND TO HELP ME! I RECKON I SHORE APPRECIATE THAT, MA'AM!
BUT NOW, WE GOT A LITTLE SCORE TO SETTLE WITH GEORGE!
NO! YOU MUSTN'T! HE'S AS STRONG AS TEN MEN! LET HIM GO-- HE COULD KILL YOU AS SOON AS LOOK AT YOU!
3

MEBBE SO, MA'AM, BUT I'LL JUST HAVETA FIND OUT FOR MYSELF!
HERE, STEEL BOY! TO ME, BOY--
WHEEE WHEEEET!
WHEEE WHEEET!
NEIGHHHH!
HOLD ON, YUH MANGY CRITTER! WHOA THERE WHOAAA!
HE-HE'S COMING BACK! BUT HE OUT-WEIGHS YOU BY FIFTY POUNDS-- AND HE TOOK YOUR GUNS! WHAT CHANCE WILL YOU HAVE???
MEBBE NONE, BUT I DON'T AIM TO LOSE BY DEFAULT!
SO YUH WHISTLED HIM BACK, DIDJA?? THAT WAS A BIG MISTAKE, MISTER! AND IT WAS YORE LAST MISTAKE!
HE'S AS BIG AS YUH SAID, MISS... AND EVEN MEANER!
IN THE NEXT SPLIT-SECOND, THE KID TOOK THE DEADLY GIANT COMPLETELY BY SURPRISE... INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DUCK AWAY FROM THE MENACING GUN, KID COLT HURLED HIMSELF DIRECTLY AT THE FIGURE ON HORSEBACK, BEFORE GEORGE COULD EVEN SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER!
I DON'T LIKE FOR ANYONE TO POINT A GUN AT ME, HOMBRE! LEAST OF ALL MUH OWN GUN!
AS BOTH MEN HIT THE GROUND, THE MADDENED GEORGE TRIED TO GET HIS MONSTROUS ARMS AROUND THE KID, BUT IT WAS LIKE TRYING TO HOLD A GREASED PIG!
I DON'T MIND FIGHTIN' A BIG JASPER LIKE YOU! YUH MAKE A MIGHTY EASY TARGET!
I'LL KILL YUH FOR-- UGH!
IF I HAD A SILVER DOLLAR FOR EVERY TIME SOMEBODY SAID THAT TO ME, I'D BE THE RICHEST HOMBRE IN THESE PARTS!
4

IF'N I CAN JUST GIT MY HANDS ON YUH--
I'D LIKE TO OBLIGE, MISTER, BUT I GOT OTHER PLANS!
HAH! NOW I GOT YUH!
OOF!
I'LL SNAP YUH IN TWO, JUST LIKE--UGH!!
NOT WHILE I CAN STILL FIGHT, YUH WON'T!
WHAP!
HELP! I'M FALLING! HELP!
I GOT YUH--
HELP!
YORE TOO HEAVY! THE SHIRT-- IT'S TEARIN'...
RRRIP!
OH NO-- NO!
THERE THERE, MA'AM! MEBBE IT'S BETTER THIS WAY! YORE FREE OF HIM, AT LAST!
IT'S IRONIC, ISN'T IT? THE ONE THING HE WAS SO PROUD OF--HIS SIZE, AND HIS STRENGTH, WERE WHAT KILLED HIM! IF HE HAD BEEN SMALLER AND LIGHTER, YOU MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO HOLD HIM!
SOMETIMES FATE TAKES A HAND IN THESE THINGS, MA'AM! I GOT A HUNCH LIFE S GONNA LOOK A HEAP BRIGHTER TO YOU FROM NOW ON!
AND THE KID WAS RIGHT! HE TOOK THE LONELY GIRL TO THE NEARBY TOWN OF LAS PALMAS, WHERE SHE GOT A JOB TEACHING SCHOOL! THAT WAS THE LAST SHE EVER SAW OF HER HANDSOME BENEFACTOR... EXCEPT, EVERY SO OFTEN SHE'D HEAR PEOPLE TALK OF A STRANGE OUTLAW, HALF MAN HALF LEGEND, NAMED K D COLT.. AND THEN SHE D KNOW! IN HER HEART, SHE'D KNOW!
The END

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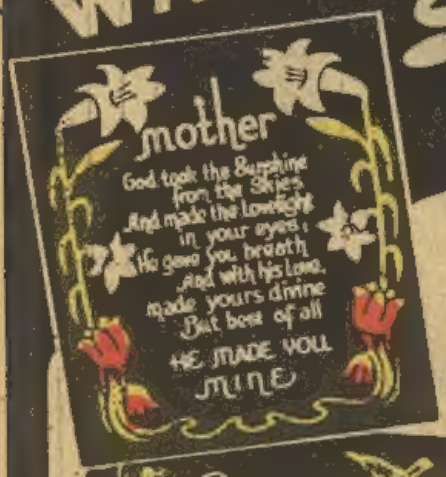

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